

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 13099 220955Z

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 HEW-04 /068 W

-----129719 221249Z /43

R 220833Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4042

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: OPPOSITIONIST MEETING ON HUMAN RIGHTS

1. OPPONENTS OF THE MARCOS REGIME HELD A CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AUGUST 20 AT SAINT SCHOLASTICA'S COLLEGE IN DOWNTOWN MANILA. SPEAKERS INCLUDED FORMER SENATOR JOVITO SALONGA, FORMER FOREIGN SECRETARY SALVADOR P. LOPEZ, AND MRS. TRINIDAD HERRERA, PRESIDENT OF THE ZONE ONE TONDO ORGANIZATION (SEE MANILA 12868). ABOUT 700-1,000 PEOPLE, INCLUDING CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT SOCIAL ACTIVISTS AS WELL AS FARMER, LABOR, STUDENT, AND URBAN POOR REPRESENTATIVES, ATTENDED THE SO-CALLED "1977 FILIPINO PEOPLE'S CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS." THEY UNANIMOUSLY PASSED RESOLUTIONS CONDEMNING TORTURE AND USE OF SAFE HOUSES; CALLING FOR FREE ELECTIONS, RESTORATION OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT IN THE UNIVERSITY, AND TERMINATION OF GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF THE MEDIA; AND SUPPORTING THE RIGHTS OF PEASANTS TO OWN THEIR LAND AND DECIDE THEIR OWN DESTINIES. THE "DELEGATES" ALSO APPROVED AN EIGHT-POINT PROGRAM ENTITLED "THE PEOPLE'S ALTERNATIVE" ADVOCATING NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE, INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, POLITICAL DEMOCRACY, AGRARIAN REFORM, INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY, NATIONALIST INDUSTRIALIZATION, PUBLIC WELFARE, AND PEOPLE'S CULTURE.

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2. THE CONVENTION WAS PEACEFUL. ITS ORGANIZERS REPORTEDLY WAITED UNTIL LAST MINUTE TO SELECT A TIME AND MEETING SITE IN ORDER TO AVOID GOVERNMENT OBSTRUCTION. NEVERTHELESS, SEVERAL PLAINCLOTHES GOVERNMENT AGENTS REPORTEDLY OBSERVED THE SPEECHES FROM SIDELINES.

3. THE MANILA PRESS MADE NO MENTION OF CONVENTION.

4. COMMENT: CONVENTION WAS TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH WORLD PEACE THROUGH LAW CONFERENCE, WHICH OPENED IN MANILA AUGUST 21. MAJOR GOAL OF ORGANIZERS TO TO PASS COPIES OF COUNTER-CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS TO WPTLC FOREIGN DELEGATES. SEVERAL OF CONVENTION'S ORGANIZERS WHOM EMBOFFS TALKED TO FOLLOWING DAY SEEMED ELATED OVER THEIR EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE UNITED FRONT OF LEGITIMATE, NON-VIOLENT OPPONENTS OF THE MARCOS REGIME. THEY SAID TURNOUT WAS UNEXPECTEDLY LARGE GIVEN FACT CONVENTION WAS HELD DURING TORRENTIAL RAINSTORM.

5. WE ARE POUCHING COPIES OF RESOLUTIONS TO EA/PHL.  
STULL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, MEETINGS  
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**Decapton Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** DG ALTERED  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** PINT, SHUM, RP  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009